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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

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Substantive session of 2005
Operational activities segment
General segment

Provisional summary record of the 33rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 20 July 2005, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Moncayo (Vice-President) ..... (Ecuador)
later: Mr. Nesho (Vice-President) ..... (Albania)

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05-43161 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Akram (Pakistan), Mr. Moncayo (Ecuador), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Action on draft resolutions E/2005/L.16 and L.29

1. **The President** drew attention to draft resolution E/2005/L.29, entitled "Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", submitted by himself on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/2005/L.16, which had been submitted by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He noted that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

2. *Draft resolution E/2005/L.29 was adopted without a vote.*

3. *Draft resolution E/2005/L.16 was withdrawn.*

Documents submitted under item 3

4. **The President** drew attention to the following documents submitted under item 3:

- Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (E/2005/4-DP/2005/13);
- Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (E/2005/5-DP/FPA/2005/2);
- Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/2005/6-E/ICEF/2005/3);
- Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for 2004 (E/2005/14);
- Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its first, second and annual sessions of 2004 (E/2004/34/Rev.1-E/ICEF/2004/7/Rev.1);
- Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its first regular session of 2005 (E/2005/34 (Part I)-E/ICEF/2005/5 (Part I) and Add.1);
- Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its work during 2004 (E/2004/35);
- Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on the first regular session of 2005 (DP/2005/14);
- Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on the first, second and third regular sessions and annual session of 2004 (E/2005/36);
- Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its fourteenth session (A/60/39);
- Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme at the annual session of 2005 (DP/2005/30);
- Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 2005 annual session (E/2005/L.15).

5. *The Council took note of the documents submitted under item 3*

Conclusion of the operational activities segment

6. **The President** said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of item 3, and thereby the operational activities segment. During that segment, the Council had achieved its expected objective, having considered very important questions related to United Nations activities for international development cooperation. It had reaffirmed both the importance of the United Nations system and the need to adopt the best options for reforms in support of greater effectiveness and greater service to countries, with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other agreements adopted by the United Nations in recent years. The Council still had before it a very significant agenda, under which it would seek to reach agreement, in a spirit of goodwill and creativity, on the proposals presented during the operational activities segment.

Resumption of the general segment

7. *Mr. Nesho (Albania) took the Chair.*

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.31

8. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.31 on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. As with previous resolutions on the topic, the draft was focused on ways to implement General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B, particularly the latter. It had been drafted against the background of the review of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of conferences and summits being undertaken by the Council and the Assembly, and laid particular emphasis on areas where integration and coordination might be promoted. In addition the draft contained a significant section on to the role of the functional commissions, which the Group of 77 and China considered to be key to the role of the Council. The draft also underlined the urgency of completing the Council's multi-year work programme for its coordination segment, as well as incorporating several of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report. It ended with a request to the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter for consideration at the substantive session in 2006.

Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.28

9. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.28 on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The draft built upon previous deliberations by the Council, in particular at its substantive sessions of 2003 and 2004, and tried to reflect many of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's annual progress report on the matter. The draft was very action-oriented, particularly with regard to measures to be taken by the least developed countries themselves, and by the United Nations development agencies and their partners. It contained a specific request to the Secretary-General to ensure predictable funding for the attendance of representatives from the least developed countries at the Council's annual review of the Programme of Action.

Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.30

10. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.30 on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau. The text had been drafted to take account of the positive efforts made by Guinea-Bissau, and of the findings in the report of the Advisory Group. It was based on the previous resolution, with the addition of several new paragraphs containing specific recommendations to ensure the long-term development of Guinea-Bissau, and emphasizing the need for assistance from the international community to bolster the commitment demonstrated by that country. The draft also called for the extension of the mandate of the Advisory Group until the Council's substantive session in 2006.

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.25

11. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.25 on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi. The text had been drafted to take account of the positive efforts made by Burundi, and of the findings in the report of the Advisory Group. Based on a previous resolution, the draft allowed for the inclusion of more specific action-oriented proposals, intended to consolidate the drive for long-term development in the country. It also called for increased assistance to Burundi and encouraged the convening of a round-table meeting of donors. It requested the Advisory Group to continue to follow closely the humanitarian, economic and social situation, and the transition from relief to development, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session in 2006.

International cooperation in the field of informatics

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.33

12. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.33 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal

utilization and accessibility by all States. It expressed appreciation for the implementation of wireless Internet access in United Nations conference rooms, and for the possibilities offered by the Official Documents System. It also requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for an additional year, in order for it to continue to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat.

Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.27

13. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.27. The text was largely procedural and followed on from the Council's previous deliberations during its substantive sessions in 2003 and 2004, and from the discussions during the high-level segment of the current session. It was intended to give structure to the outcome of those various discussions by requesting the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive progress report for review by the Council at its substantive session in 2008.

Economic and environmental questions

Introduction of draft decision E/2005/L.26

14. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft decision E/2005/L.26, noting that it was strictly procedural and self-explanatory.

Long-term programme of support for Haiti

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.20

15. **Ms. Wolaniuk** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Benin, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Pakistan as President of the Council, introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.20. Recalling that the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti had presented its report to the Council the day before, she said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to take note of the report, to extend the mandate of the Group until July 2006, and to seek resources and assistance for its work.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.18

16. **Mr. Cardoso** (Brazil) said the alarming statistics on HIV/AIDS exposed the magnitude and gravity of the problem. The pandemic was one of the gravest challenges of the day, and in the worst affected regions it was aggravating the social and economic crisis. The draft resolution contained provisions on the goals and specific time-bound targets set forth in the declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS, reaffirming the importance of the follow-up process. It urged UNAIDS and other United Nations agencies to intensify their support to Governments, with a view to achieving such goals and targets, as well as those in the Millennium Declaration. It made particular reference to the implementation of the "Three Ones" principle, and also endorsed strengthening of United Nations regional action on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS and its partners were encouraged to increase their efforts to reach the "3 by 5" target, and Governments were urged to continue to work together with UNAIDS and its partners towards making prevention, treatment, care and support accessible worldwide.

Support to Non-Self Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.22

17. **Mr. Cumberbach** (Cuba), introducing draft resolution E/2005/L.22 on behalf of the sponsors, noted that two new paragraphs, 12 and 18, had been added, and that Namibia had joined the sponsors of the draft.

18. *Draft resolution E/2005/L.22 was adopted.*

Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Introduction of draft resolution E/2005/L.21

19. **Mr. Cremades** (Spain) introduced draft resolution E/2005/L.21, which had been drafted by both Spain and Morocco. He noted that some amendments had been made in the preamble and minor amendments in paragraph 2. A new paragraph 4 reflected results of a seminar held in Madrid.

International cooperation in tax matters

20. **The President** said that the Council would consider the report on international cooperation in tax matters (E/2005/45) at a later date.

Statistical Commission

21. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica) reiterated the importance which the Group of 77 and China attached to the work of the Statistical Commission, which provided an important intergovernmental platform for the creation of an integrated system for the collection, processing and dissemination of international statistics. Against that background, Jamaica was pleased that special attention was being paid to the need for statistical capacity-building in developing countries, and especially to the importance of providing financial support and technical assistance to developing countries. The role of the Statistical Commission should be further strengthened within the United Nations system, and greater emphasis should be placed on indicators for monitoring implementation of Millennium Development Goal 8.

22. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that the Statistical Commission's role as a coordinator promoted international cooperation. The Commission occupied a special place because it provided the entire United Nations system with the statistical database necessary for monitoring and analysing the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. Its role was all the more politically significant in the context of the preparations for the September Summit, which would evaluate the progress made in attaining the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

23. While his delegation supported the latest report of the Commission, it was seriously concerned about the danger that its work might become politicized, and about the adoption of decisions by voting. That would impair the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Council.

Other matters

24. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the decision of the Commission on Population and Development to focus on the problems of poverty. On the question of international migration, his delegation attached great importance to covering the negative consequences of unchecked migration, and hoped the issue would be examined at the next session of that Commission. It also took positive note of the work of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs in preparation for the high-level discussions to take place on international migration and development at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

25. **The President** drew attention to the 14 recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/2005/83). The complete report of the Conference would be issued as document E/CONF.96/3, and brought before the Council at a later date. Pending completion of the report, he would take it that the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Conference as contained in document E/2005/83.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. **The President** informed the Council that the Secretariat was working to finalize the revision of the programme budget implications of the draft decision on the international expert group meeting on the Millennium Development Goals.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.